

“ we help
create a
trained and
qualified
workforce ”

new qualifications for the adult social care sector

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qcf



This is an update on Skills for Care's direction of travel for developing new qualifications for the Qualification Credit Framework (QCF). The introductory leaflets can be found at www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qcf.

new qualifications

A whole range of new qualifications are being developed by Skills for Care in partnership with awarding organisations. This is an employer and sector led process designed to meet the needs of employers. There will be many different units (or parts of qualifications) that reflect what workers should 'know' and 'do' which make up a number of different qualifications.

what is changing?

The current Health and Social Care (HSC) NVQs level 2 and 3 will be replaced by Health and Social Care (HSC) Diplomas at Level 2 and 3. These will be launched in January 2011.

There will be options to take a generic HSC Diploma or a specialist dementia pathway or learning disability pathway, which will allow learners to tailor their learning to their job role. The current learning disability qualification (LDQ) will not exist on the QCF. The learning disability pathway will provide a new way for learners to gain contextualised knowledge and skills around supporting individuals with learning disabilities.

The current leadership and management in care services (formerly the Registered Managers award) and the Health and Social Care (HSC) NVQ level 4 will become a combined qualification at level 5. The difference in levels reflects differences between the current framework and the QCF. This qualification will also be launched January 2011.

Existing qualifications will be recognised at an equivalent level, so those staff who are qualified will not have to repeat their qualification.

The QCF gives the flexibility to link units studied into relevant qualifications as appropriate, and in some cases will also allow non-accredited prior experience and knowledge to be taken into account. This is formally known as recognition of prior learning (RPL). It is a term used with the QCF to ensure learners do not repeat learning. The RPL system allows certificated and un-certificated learning to be recognised, providing it meets the learning outcomes of the units. Further information should be sought from individual awarding organisations.



structure of health and social care diplomas at level 2 and 3

Group A – 9 mandatory units across England adults and children, Northern Ireland and Wales

Personal development	Communication
Equality and inclusion	Duty of care
Role of health and social care worker	Safeguarding of vulnerable adults
Person-centred Support	Health and safety
Handling information	



Group B - made up of knowledge only units that offer the learner the opportunity to undertake units that form either a generic or specialist learning disabilities or dementia pathway.

There is a choice of units and these are stipulated in order to achieve the appropriate pathway.



Group C - provides the learner the opportunity to take a variety of competence units that reflect their job role.

This includes a range of both specialist and generic units.

Total credit for Health and Social Care Diploma level 2 = 46 credits or more

Credits from Group A = 24 credits

Combined credits from Groups B and C = at least 22 credits

Total credit for Health and Social Care Diploma level 3 = 58 credits or more

Credits from Group A = 28 credits

Combined credits from Groups B and C = at least 30 credits

Learners will be able to study units and/or qualifications relevant to their job role and/or chosen career pathway.

To reflect the changing landscape within health and social care, units have been developed in a diverse range of areas for use within the HSC diploma to reflect the learners job roles. Further smaller qualifications are being developed at level 2 and 3 for continuing professional development (CPD).

The following dementia qualifications will be available to learners in September 2010:

- Level 2 Award Awareness of Dementia
- Level 2 Certificate in Dementia Care
- Level 3 Award Awareness of Dementia
- Level 3 Certificate in Dementia Care

Other smaller qualifications will be launched shortly around the following areas:

- Learning disabilities
- Activities organiser
- Assisting and moving individuals

funding

The Skills Funding Agency will continue to provide funding for eligible learners starting NVQ level 2 and 3 until 31 December 2010 when it is replaced by the HSC diploma level 2 and 3 in January 2011.

The Skills Funding Agency list of NVQ qualifications that will not be funded beyond 31 July 2010 can be found at <http://qcf.skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk/qcf-funding/confirmationfunding/>.

Skills for Care will continue to support employers through the training strategy implementation fund www.skillsforcare.org.uk/tsi.

Skills for Care is working to ensure that the National Minimum Data-Set for Social Care (NMDS-SC) reflects changes taking place to qualifications along similar timescales as the introduction of new social care-related QCF qualifications.

In consultation and collaboration with the sector and key stakeholders, including the Care Quality Commission (CQC), Skills for Care has developed advice and guidance to help providers of residential and community adult social care services to fulfil their responsibilities in respect of the outcomes in the CQC's guidance about compliance with 'Essential Standards of Quality and Safety'.

Further updates and information can be found on our website: www.skillsforcare.org.uk/qcf.

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